

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Fryc, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Erin Canzano, Secretary; and Dr. B. Dale Magee; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of the Shrewsbury Public Schools; Ms. Mary Beth Banios, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Not present: Mr. Jon Wensky

The meeting was convened at 6:15pm by Mr. Samia.

Mr. John Samia asked the School Committee if there was a motion to vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of a) discussing negotiations with the Shrewsbury Education Association, Unit A; b) reviewing and acting upon a student residency issue; & c) for the purpose of reviewing and releasing executive session minutes from a prior meeting. On a motion made by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:15 PM. Roll call vote is as follows: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes and Mr. Samia, yes.

After executive session was adjourned, the meeting was recessed, and then was reconvened at 7:03 PM by Mr. Samia.

I. Public Participation

None

II. Chairperson's Report and Members' Reports

Mr. Samia thanked Sue Falzoi for helping to facilitate their participation in the Annual Spirit of Shrewsbury parade. He commented on what a great tradition it is and how much the School Committee enjoyed participating. He thanked SHS students, Jared Sarnie, Abigail Eckstrom and Rebecca Schwartz, who, under the direction of Pamela LeBlanc, Director of Visual Arts, created the beautiful banner that was displayed at the parade. He also thanked Oak Middle School 7th grade students Sarah Urbano and Izzi Cantin for holding the banner during the parade.

III. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sawyer also thanked the organizers of the Spirit of Shrewsbury Festival and Parade and commented on what a terrific event it is. He then reminded the community of the second and last professional development day on Friday, October 9. He talked about the various topics that the staff would be receiving training on and emphasized the critical need for this training in order to achieve the mission of the district. Dr. Sawyer next talked about the annual all school council meeting that happens at the start of each year. He talked about the importance of the council, whose purpose is to

act as an advisory group to the principals by reviewing the work that is happening in the district and then provide guidance in the development of a plan for the district. He noted how this is an excellent example of a way in which the community can have a voice regarding what is happening in the schools. He commended Ms. Banios, Assistant Superintendent for her presentation relative to the District Goals and Mr. Collins for providing information on the budget process including a review of the priorities.

IV. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. SHS Class of 2015 Post-High School Plans: Report

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal at SHS, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling at SHS presented a report on the future plans of the 411 members of the Shrewsbury High School graduating class of 2015. They shared an overview presentation, which included graphs and charts illustrating information regarding what students from the Class of 2015 planned to do after graduating from SHS. Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh said that given that the vast majority of students go on to post-secondary education, the report focuses on colleges and universities where students were accepted, where they matriculated, and the characteristics of these colleges and universities. They shared some trends that they are noticing regarding a continued increase in attendance at four-year colleges, which is at an all-time high of 88%. They also noted a reversal in attendance of public versus private schools with private school attendance rising up to 51% and public dropping down to 41%. They noted a more equivalent demographic of males versus females attending four-year colleges and that the vast majority of students are still attending colleges in the northeast. They also shared statistics on selectivity, which indicated a rise in students matriculating to more competitive schools. Next, Mr. Bazydlo shared that a three-year trend shows a significant increase in students with special education needs attending four-year schools.

Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh shared they were pleased with how SHS school counselors strive to work with students and families to find the best fit for students. They also gave information from surveys regarding what the top three choices are that students consider when choosing to attend certain colleges and how they are paying for their post-secondary education. The Committee asked a number of questions including the level of student preparedness, and how students receive insight for their decision making process. The Committee also asked about the levels of support available from colleges and universities for students with special education needs and the reason for the change regarding the increase of students choosing private over public schools. Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh responded with details on the various ways students receive information to ensure they are prepared, how they can determine what services are offered by colleges if there is a need and their ideas as to why the numbers for private versus public school attendance has switched. Dr. Sawyer thanked Mr. Bazydlo and Ms. Huynh for the amount of effort, by administration and the high school counseling staff, that is put into educating students and families on the college process.

B. SHS Student Athletes: Student Presentation

Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal, Mr. Jason Costa, Director of Athletics and student athlete leaders Meghan Collins, Rachel St. Pierre, Matthew Ward and Erik King presented the report. Shrewsbury students discussed the positive influence that school athletic participation has on their academic performance and personal growth. They spoke about becoming student role models and leaders in the community and discussed other specifics including time management, work ethic, self-assessment, setting goals in and out of the classroom, dealing with disappointment and collaboration, as well as expanding friendships.

Committee members questioned the students about experiencing loss and disappointment and how they specifically deal with that and rise above. Dr. Sawyer asked the students to discuss the

leadership culture that exists and how underclassmen are inducted and made to feel welcome. Students confirmed their understanding of how important it is to be a positive role model, to establish an environment of respect and support. Meghan also explained that she and Matthew are student ambassadors for the MIAA. Requirements of this role are to complete community service hours and attend leadership seminars, which focus on the importance of being a team member and behavior appropriate of a leader.

Dr. Sawyer and the Committee commended the students on their presentation and their positive, respectful behavior.

C. Interscholastic Athletics: Annual Report

Mr. Costa and Mr. Bazydlo presented the athletics report. Mr. Costa began by sharing statistics, which included the number of teams, athletes that participated in all three seasons and coaching staff, and the total number of contests played. He also shared information about the number of teams and participants at the middle level. Mr. Bazydlo shared information about the Unified Track Team, which is beginning its third successful season. Highlights of the athletics program included student leadership opportunities; teams successes at district, regional and state championship playoffs; All-Star, All-State, All-New England and All-American selections; collegiate participation and successes; requirements of coaches and administration; changes to coaches' evaluation process, and supporting students with the college recruitment process. He recognized the Booster Club's continued financial support, Central One Federal Credit Union's Athletic Sponsorship of \$20,000 for the third year and the addition of Buffalo Wild Wings as a supporter. He then discussed financials including appropriated budget figures, fees, gate receipts and Girls Hockey Co-op revenue; the tremendous support of athletic medical staff and health services department, and future considerations. They ended with comments that the athletics program provided a variety of outstanding experiences that helped student-athletes develop numerous skills including teamwork and leadership.

The Committee asked various questions concerning the coaches' evaluation process in regards to formally gathering current athletes feedback as well as gathering information from former students now playing college athletics. Also discussed was the protocol for attendance of the athletic trainer when various games are happening at the same time and clarification of fluctuations in student participation and fee figures from the previous year.

Dr. Sawyer and the Committee thanked Mr. Bazydlo and Mr. Costa for their excellent presentation and commended the administration and athletes involved in the program.

D. Student Concussions: Report

Ms. Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing Services and Mr. Walter Hildebrand, Athletic Trainer presented a report regarding symptoms, how a positive determination is made and statistical information on the number of cases. Their presentation showed the breakdown of the total number of SHS sports related concussions, and the circumstances of how they happened. They also provided statistics on the number of total concussions and in which sports they occurred over a four-year time frame. Both Ms. Freeman and Mr. Hildebrand provided detailed information on the diagnoses process, care and treatment for recovery. They ended the report with information on the "return to play" protocol and details on prevention/education.

Committee members asked questions about processes for informing parents and students about the incidences of concussions and opportunities for training and preparing students to avoid situations where concussions occur and the existence of protocol from treatment for students who have sustained multiple concussions.

Dr. Sawyer and the Committee thanked Ms. Freeman and Mr. Hildebrand for the report and their skillful service to the district.

E. Nursing Services: Annual Report

Ms. Freeman, Director of Nursing Services, provided a presentation highlighting the Nursing Department and the work that is being done throughout the district. She provided a comprehensive overview of the school healthcare program that emphasized the range of work that is done on a daily basis, the number of students and staff serviced and types of services provided. She also explained about the other ways that the nurses are contributing their talents within all levels of the schools, which includes the following programs, “Taking Root” at Parker Rd. Preschool, “A Visit from the Dentist”, “Healthy Habits in the Classroom” for the elementary level, “Strategies for Building Emotional Resilience” for middle school students, and “Fostering Independence in Senior Students with Diabetes” at the high school level. Next, she outlined future plans regarding types of training to be provided, the plan for schools to stock the rescue drug Narcan (naloxone) for opioid overdose, and their new electronic health record software.

Committee members asked some clarifying questions about epi-pen use and supplies in schools, and how they stay up-to-date with the dynamic health issues. Dr. Sawyer mentioned his concern regarding potential new state mandates and the affect they might have with regard to the amount of time required on behalf of the nurses.

Dr. Sawyer and Committee members expressed their appreciation to the nursing staff for what they do to help students in providing medical care, the abundance of communication they provide to families and for fostering advocacy skills in students with medical concerns.

V. Curriculum

None

VI. Policy

None

VII. Finance and Operations

A. Fiscal Year 2017 Priorities & Guidelines: Second Discussion & Vote

Mr. Samia explained that at the September 23 meeting, he and Ms. Canzano presented a draft recommendation of the Fiscal Year 2017 Priorities and Guidelines. Since then, it has been available for the public to review and provide feedback. It was also presented to the Finance Committee and School Councils for their comment but no feedback had been submitted. Mr. Samia reviewed that their primary goal is sustainability. The two minor changes are a review of all programs and their fee levels, and the anticipated loss of the full day kindergarten grant that will not be available next year.

On a motion by Dr. Magee and seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee members voted unanimously to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Priorities and Guidelines.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Approval of Minutes: Vote

Mr. Samia requested a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting on September 23, 2015. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes of the School Committee meeting on September 23, 2015.

XI. Executive Session

Executive session was held prior to the meeting – see above.

XII. Information Enclosures

None

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Samia requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting for October 7, 2015. On a motion by Dr. Magee, seconded by Ms. Fryc the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM. On a roll call vote: Dr. Magee, yes; Ms. Canzano, yes; Ms. Fryc, yes; Mr. Samia, yes

Respectfully submitted

Kimberlee Cantin, Clerk

Documents referenced:

- 1) SHS Class of 2015 Post-High School Plans Report and Slide Presentation
- 2) Student Concussions Report and Slide Presentation
- 3) Interscholastic Athletics Annual Report and Slide Presentation
- 4) Nursing Services Annual Report and Slide Presentation